

# **Philosophy of Ministry**

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## **God is Good**

God is good regardless of our circumstances, and is generally in a good mood. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. God is generous and as we remember and retell what He has done, He's able and eager to do it again. I believe in the power of the testimony, and impart my breakthroughs to those that will receive them. I position my heart to receive others breakthroughs as well. My breakthroughs are your breakthroughs, and yours are mine. Freely I have received, freely I will give. I look for God in everything, so I can find Him in anything.

## **Salvation Creates Joyful Identity**

I believe we are new creations - saints who have been given His righteousness. I believe we are more prone to righteousness, than we are to sin. In fact, we are slaves to righteousness. We are adopted as royalty into God's family. When we sin, we are operating outside of our nature. Joy should be the default mood of every believer. I am confident in who I am and seek to reproduce Christ's work in me in others.

## **Responsive to Grace**

God scandalously loves His "lost" creation and extends grace, empowering believers to love Him and others at a higher standard than the law. Grace enables what the Law requires. The Father's love keeps us from focusing on sin or hiding in shame if we fail. And as His son, I practice that with those in my community, and hold them accountable. Accountability is "accounting for one's ability". I hold people to the standard of what God says about them which is always hope-focused and empowering.

## **Focused on His Presence**

I am a son first, before anything else. As a believer, my first ministry is to God. As a lifestyle, I focus on Him while I minister and attempt to say what God is saying and do what He is doing.

## **Glory to Glory**

We are sons and daughters of a King. He is our inheritance and the abundance of heaven is available for us. If you put a pauper in a palace, he will turn the palace into a prison, but if you put a prince in a prison, he will turn the prison into a palace. We can never become greater than what we believe about ourselves. What we believe on the inside will manifest on the outside. As royalty, we journey through life from glory to glory. Any area of our life that doesn't glimmer with hope is a stronghold of the enemy. Some say faith is blind, but faith sees. As we look at our circumstances through the lense of hope, we actively wait for what we have faith for.

## **Creating Healthy Families**

Family is the government of Heaven. I was adopted into God's family, so I intentionally create family and community wherever I go. I think like healthy family members by doing what's best for the whole environment and by submitting to one another and by not being selfish. My core values in building community are vulnerability, honor, and forgiveness.

## **God's Word Transforms**

The Bible is my reality map. I believe we encounter God in the Word, and faith is released into our lives. As we study Scripture, it empowers us to know who God is, who we are and how He wants us to live. I go before God as a poor man, but I go before the people as a king. I study the Word to be transformed. What I preach and teach is the result of transformation, but I do not study for a message alone. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to search out a matter. I find it a great privilege to search for fresh revelations of the nature of God. There are realities yet to be discovered. The nature of a revelation is that He reveals it. I actively position my heart to receive. What we don't know is just as significant as what we do know.

## **God's Still Speaking**

Jesus said that His sheep would know His voice and that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things. It's natural for God to communicate with His family and important for us to listen, look, and learn His language and ways. I am constantly listening for what He is saying about myself, a person, or a circumstance and declare it. Life and death lie in the power of the tongue. I believe words create worlds.

## **Supernatural Ministry**

Jesus promised signs would follow believers and they would do even greater works than He. Nothing is impossible with God so no person or situation is beyond His ability to bring complete restoration. I propose that God is most creative in times of chaos. I will not base the scriptures off of my experience. I pursue the reality in scripture and hold it as truth until it is my experience.

## **His Kingdom is Advancing**

Every believer is in full-time ministry because God is advancing His Kingdom, not just building His Church. We are the light of the world, not the light of the church. Our work and effort, whether big or small, inside or outside the church, is sacred and valuable to God. There is no such thing as a "second-class" believer and I am passionate about diminishing the sacred/secular line. All of the church is in the Kingdom, but not all the Kingdom is in the church. The church is a beautiful part of God's Kingdom, but I believe His vision goes beyond the four walls. It's important that we learn to translate the culture we have in church into the rest of the world. The reality within us becomes the reality around us. It is our great responsibility to advance His kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

## **Free and Responsible**

Christ died to set us free from the law of sin and death, fear, and shame. Freedom is very personal, but not self-centered. We have been given freedom to serve one another in love. I live in freedom, and seek to empower every believer to do so. It is no big task for me to lay down certain freedoms for the sake of a brother. God is bound by no rules, yet He chooses righteousness and we are called to be like Him. It is my responsibility to submit myself to my community and pull on the power of Christ and family to stay free.

## **Honor Affirms Value**

Honor recognizes and affirms how valuable and powerful other people are because they are made in His image and He died to restore them to relationship. Honor is the Yellow-Brick Road to life. Flattery is the counterfeit to Honor. Honor is the lense in which I view relationships in life. Every person was made in the image of God, and every person carries a revelation of who He is. I position my heart to receive from every person, for I believe every person has something of value. I can't afford to think or say things about myself or others that He isn't.

## **Hope in a Glorious Bride**

I believe the Church will successfully fulfill Christ's great commission to make disciples of all nations, which means the nations will be transformed. I am eager to see generations surpass our capacity in knowledge and power in Christ Jesus and find it an honor to disciple people into relationship with Him. Christ will see His spotless and unified bride. Unity cannot happen outside of diversity. I believe it is the celebration of diversity, the integration of every person of any age, gender, ethnicity, culture, or denomination that cultivates true unity. Jesus loves His bride, blemishes and all. My greatest passion is to equip the church to cultivate extraordinary relationships with God.

## **Living What I Teach**

I only teach what I live, and I make sure what I live teaches. Jesus modeled this lifestyle. There is power and authority in teaching what we live. I preach to inspire, not to convince. We need a Church that is free to think in the safety of community instead being told what to think and believe. The "why" is just as important as the "what." I preach to the best in every believer as if they want to follow Jesus as Lord of every area in their life.

## **Equipping the Saints**

As an occupational minister, it is my responsibility to equip the saints for every good work, for it is the saints who do the work. When it comes to ministry, I am a saint first. Serving in an office of the Body of Christ is a great honor, but it is not an end in of itself. It is a position that empowers the saints to go further, instead of keeping them under the lid of "leadership".

## **My Ways in Christ Jesus**

Every person and church has their own style of ministry. When Paul sent Timothy, he said about him, "...who I taught in my ways, which are in Christ Jesus." These "flavors" of ministry usually trickle down from the leadership. No matter where I am, I commit to honoring the house by submitting to the leader's ways and language. God is not limited by the differences among the streams of the Church. He is the same God no matter what house I am in.

## **Reproducing Myself**

Fathers do not just raise sons, they raise fathers. Jesus' assignment was specifically for the Jews, and He chose to reproduce Himself in twelve people to reach the rest of the world. Jesus modeled empowering those who He led to go further than Himself, and I have adopted this lifestyle. My goal is always to work myself out of a job by raising up leaders who are equipped enough to continue the work, creating a sustainable ministry.

## **Jesus is Perfect Theology**

Jesus is the model for my life as a Christian. Everything we need to know about God can be found in the person of Jesus, not just who He was on earth, but also who He is currently and who He will be when He returns to earth to co-reign with us.